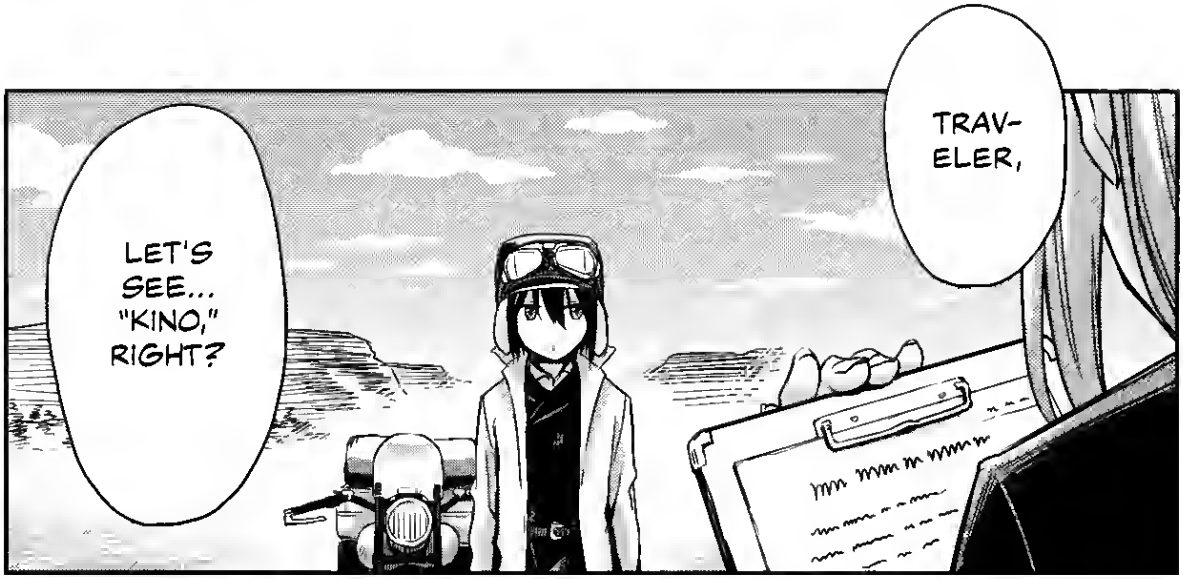
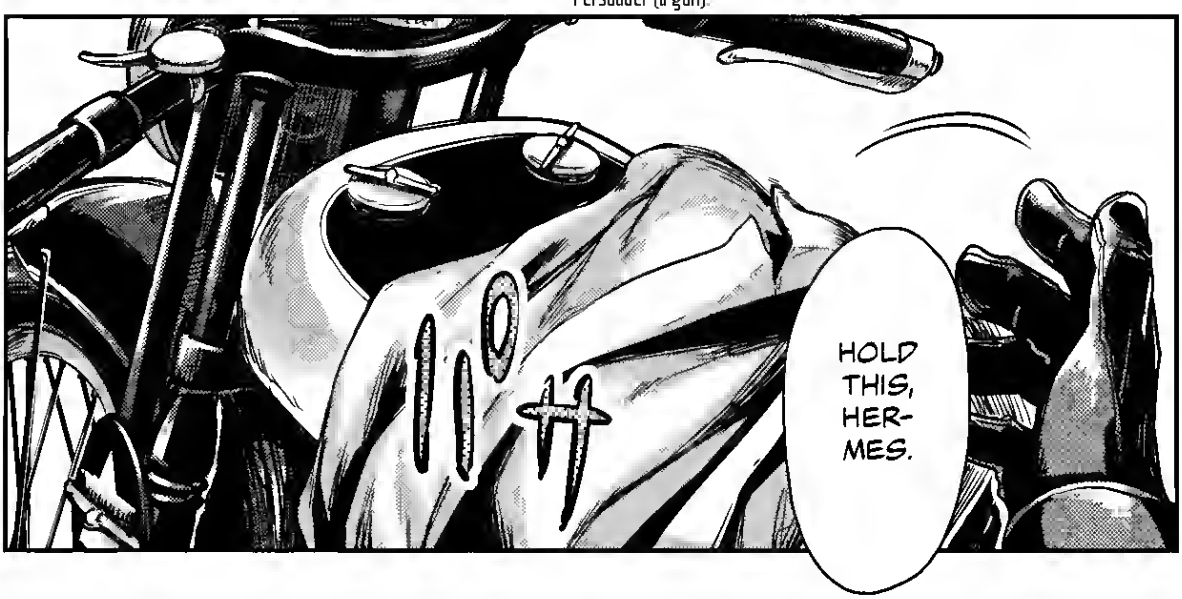


*Persuader (a gun).



Chapter Two
「Land of Slugging」
-Busters-
JUST THESE TWO PERSUA-DERS.
IF I NEED TO HAND THEM OVER TO ENTER THE COUNTRY, I CAN.

IT'S NO PROB-LEM AT ALL!
NOPE!

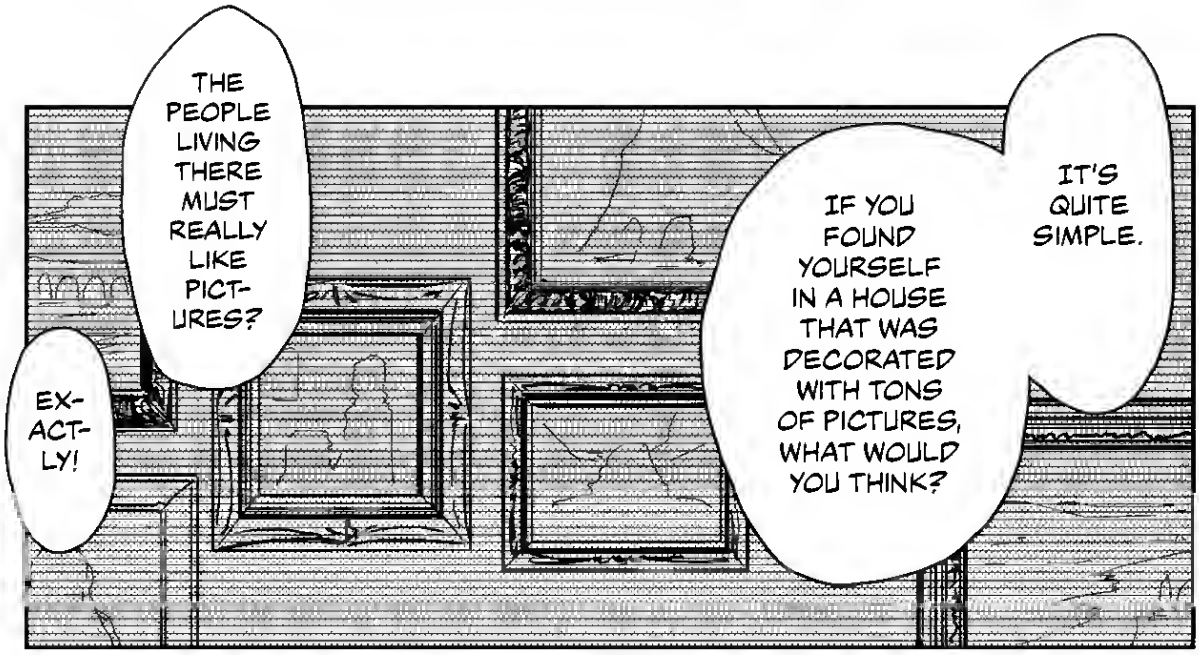
"WHY," YOU ASK?

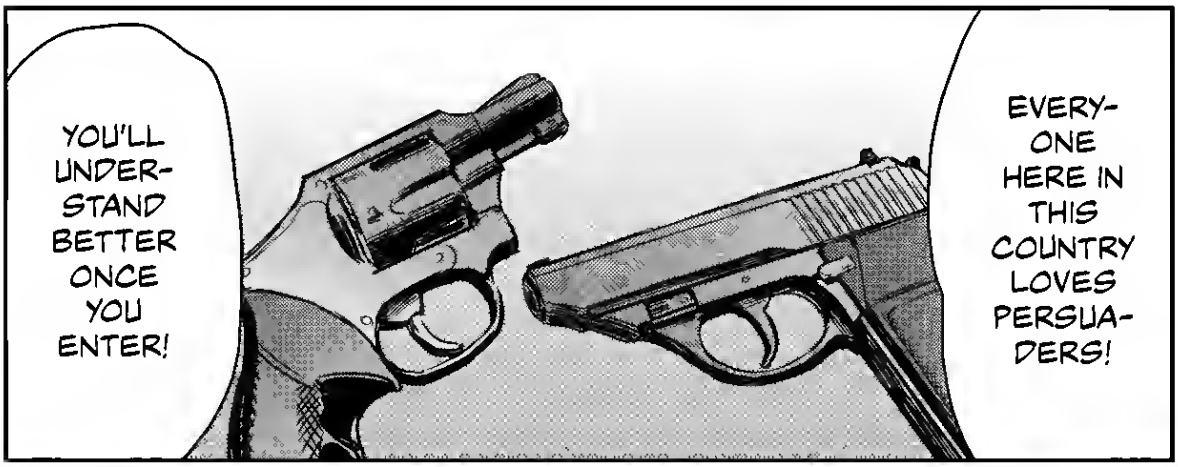
HUH?
IF ANY-THING, THE CITIZENS WILL BE OVER-JOYED!
YOU'RE FREE TO ENTER AND LEAVE WITH THEM HANGING RIGHT THERE ON YOUR WAIST.

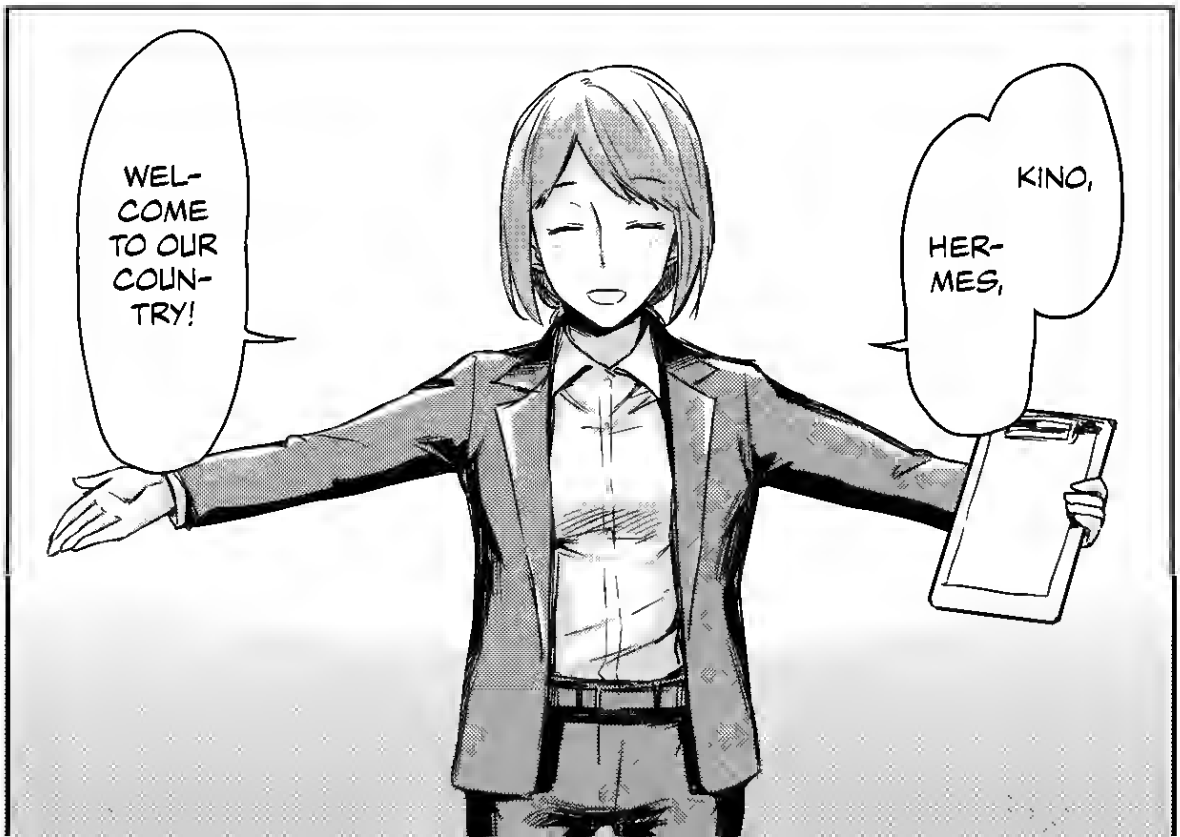
AND THIS IS DEFI-NITELY THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD "THE CITI-ZENS WILL BE OVER-JOYED" ABOUT IT.
WHY? WE RARELY EVER RUN ACROSS A COUNTRY THAT'S OKAY WITH CARRYING PERSUA-DERS AROUND.

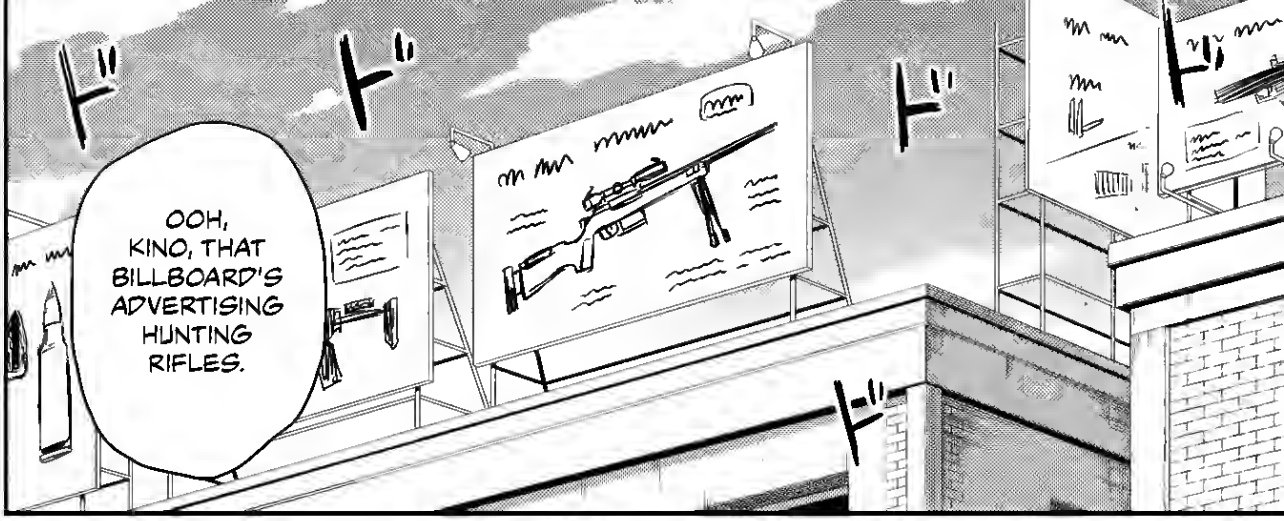
TODAY I'M CARRY-ING THREE.
OH, WOW.
AND HERE TOO.

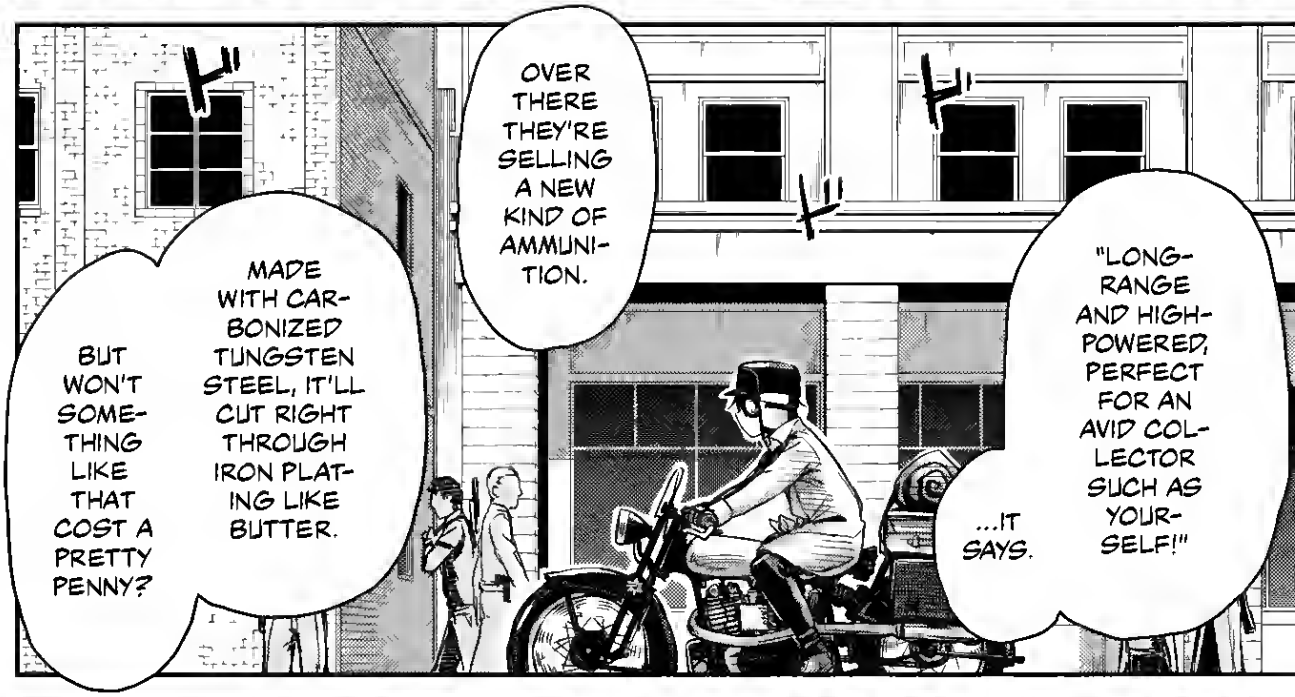
IS THIS COUNTRY REALLY THAT LAW-LESS?
WHAT?
OH, NO, NO. THESE PERSUA-DERS AREN'T FOR SELF-DE-FENSE.
THEN WHAT *ARE* THEY FOR?

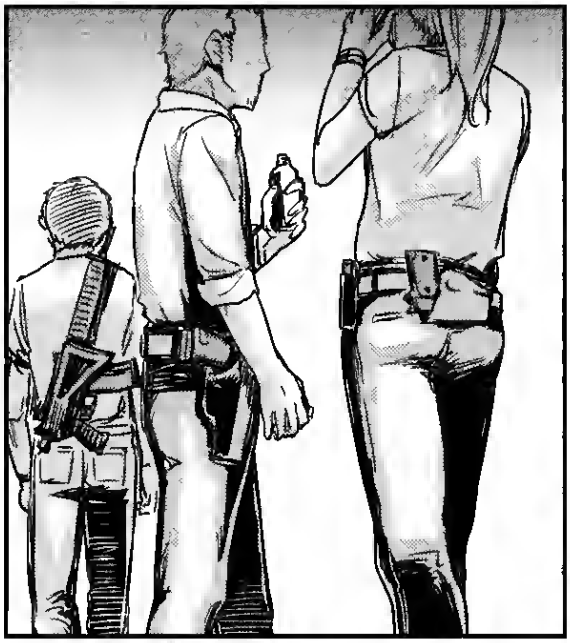

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.
IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN A HOUSE THAT WAS DECORATED WITH TONS OF PICTURES, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK?
THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE MUST REALLY LIKE PICT-URES?
EX-ACT-LY!


EVERY-ONE HERE IN THIS COUNTRY LOVES PERSUA-DERS!
YOU'LL UNDER-STAND BETTER ONCE YOU ENTER!


KINO, HER-MES,
WEL-COME TO OUR COUN-TRY!

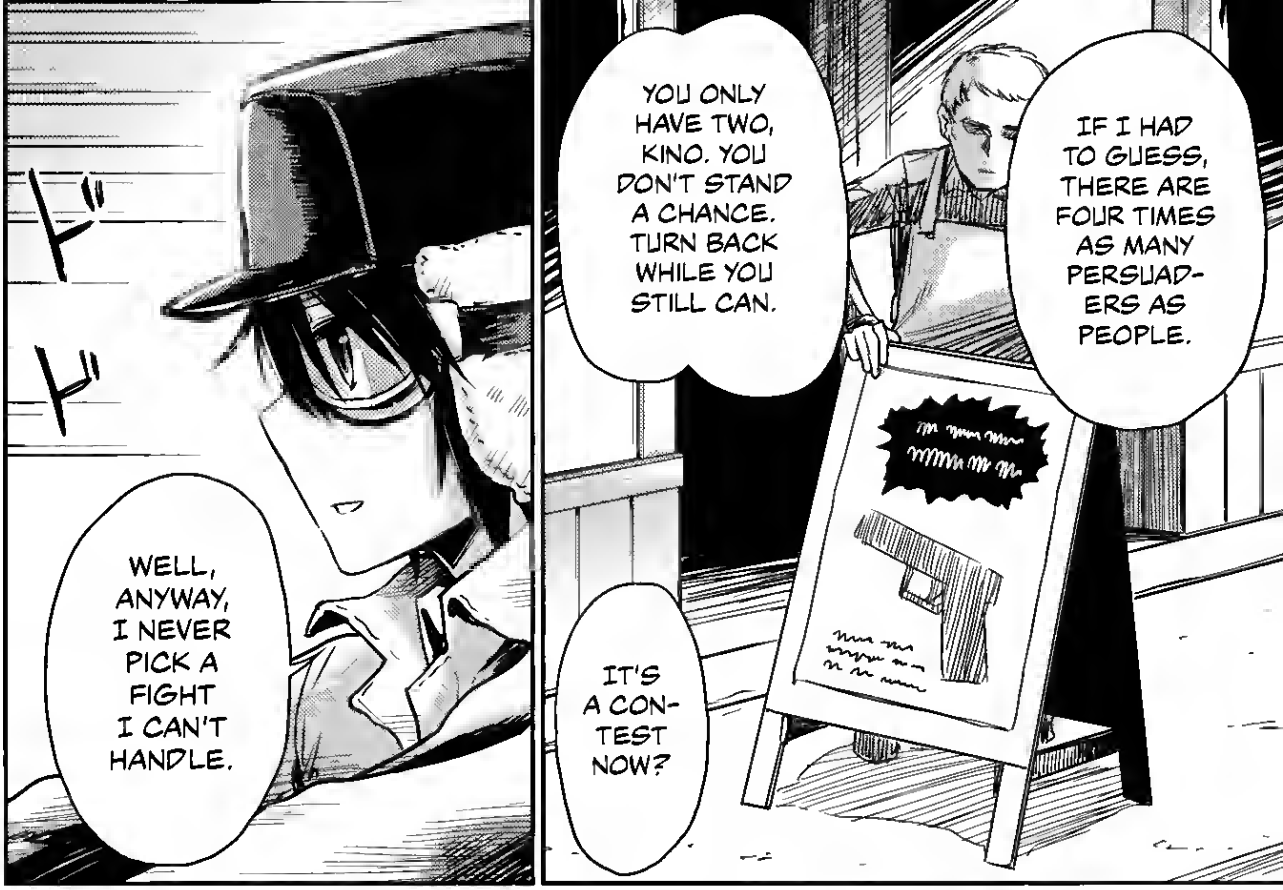



OVER THERE THEY'RE SELLING A NEW KIND OF AMMUNI-TION.
"LONG-RANGE AND HIGH-POWERED, PERFECT FOR AN AVID COL-LECTOR SUCH AS YOUR-SELF!"
...IT SAYS.
MADE WITH CAR-BONIZED TUNGSTEN STEEL, IT'LL CUT RIGHT THROUGH IRON PLAT-ING LIKE BUTTER.
BUT WON'T SOME-THING LIKE THAT COST A PRETTY PENNY?

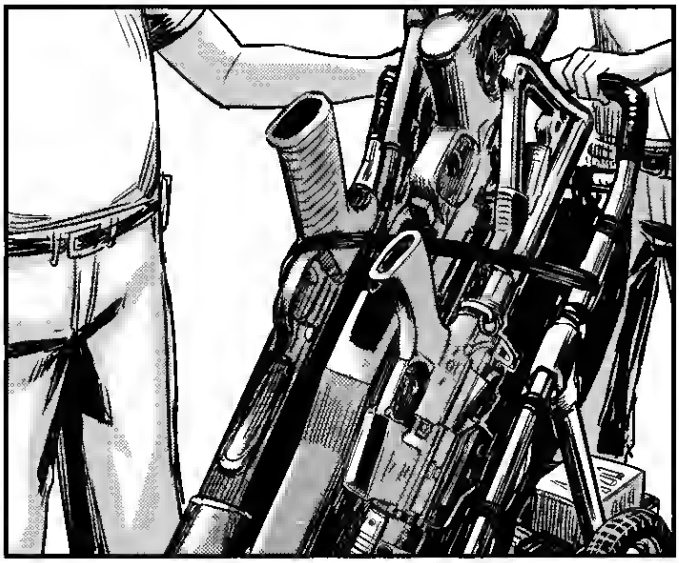


TN. Kino and Hermes are mimicking infomercial banter.

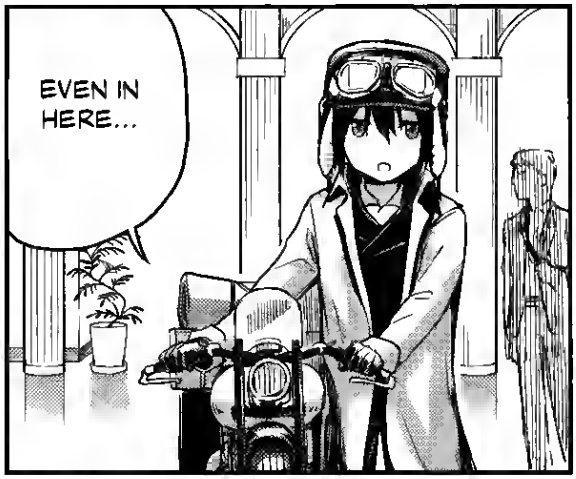
I BET THE ONLY UNARMED CITIZENS ARE BABIES.
YEAH, I DON'T THINK WE'VE EVER VISITED A COUNTRY WITH SUCH A HIGH "PERSUADER-PER-CAPITA" BEFORE.

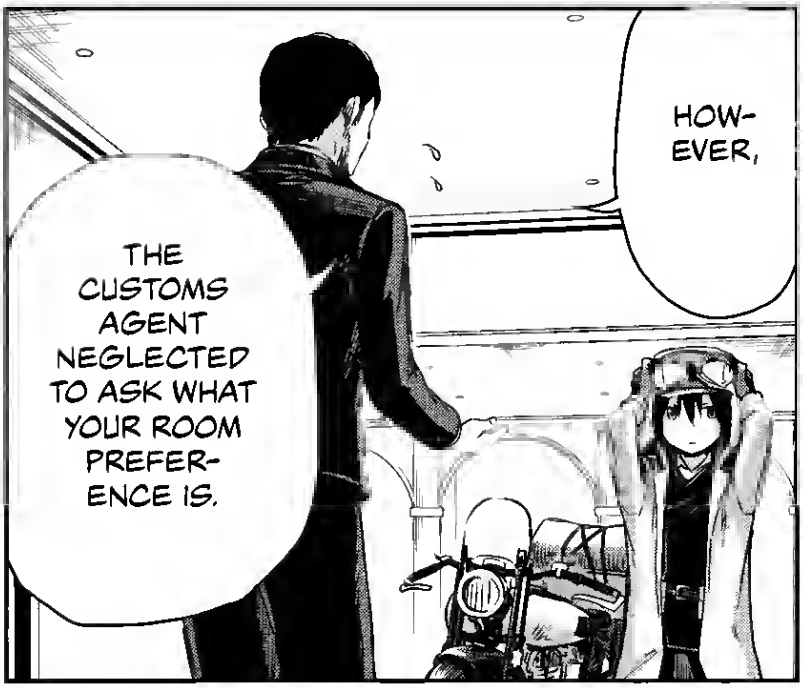

WELL, ANYWAY, I NEVER PICK A FIGHT I CAN'T HANDLE.
YOU ONLY HAVE TWO, KINO. YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE. TURN BACK WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
IF I HAD TO GUESS, THERE ARE FOUR TIMES AS MANY PERSUAD-ERS AS PEOPLE.
IT'S A CON-TEST NOW?

YEAH, THAT!
..."DIS-CRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR"?
DIGES-TION IS BITTER AND PART SOUR,
RIGHT ?

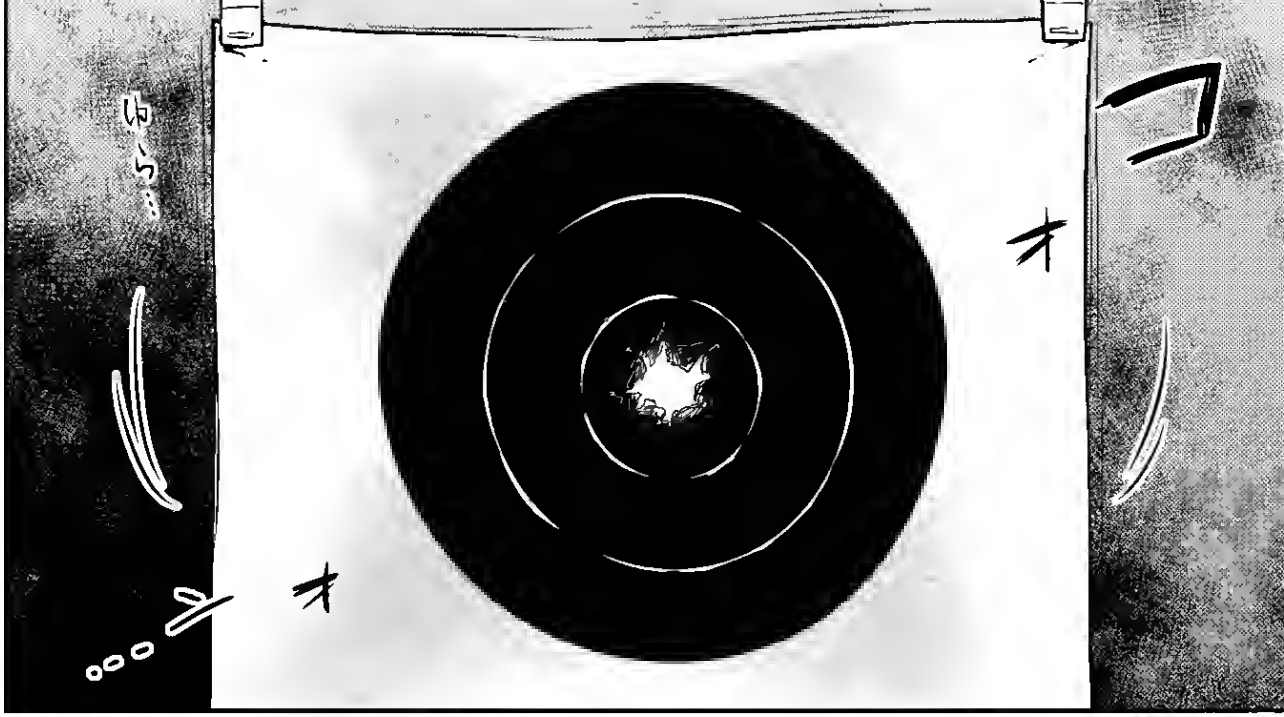


I AS-
SUME
YOU'RE
THE
TRAVEL-
ER?


EVEN IN
HERE...



*Motorrad (A two-wheeled vehicle. Only to note that it cannot fly).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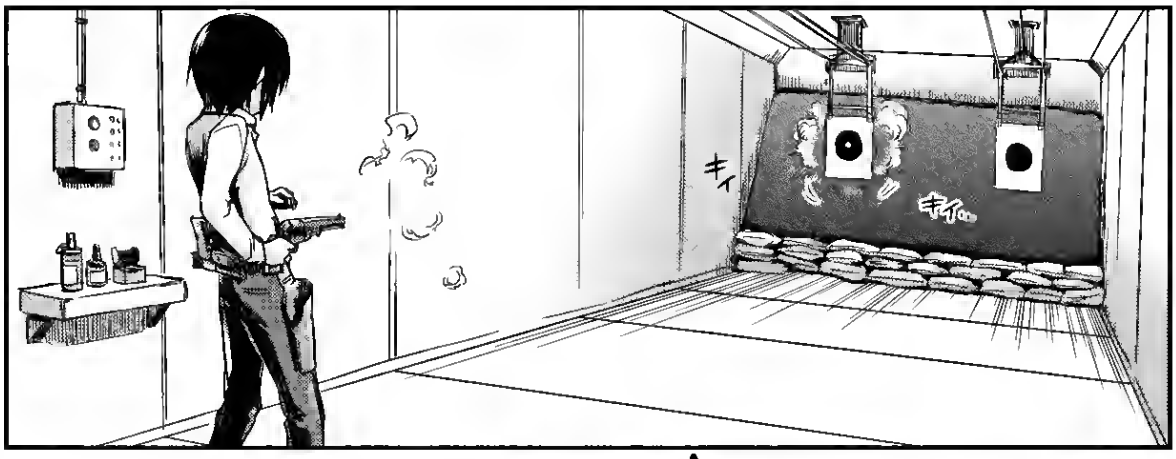
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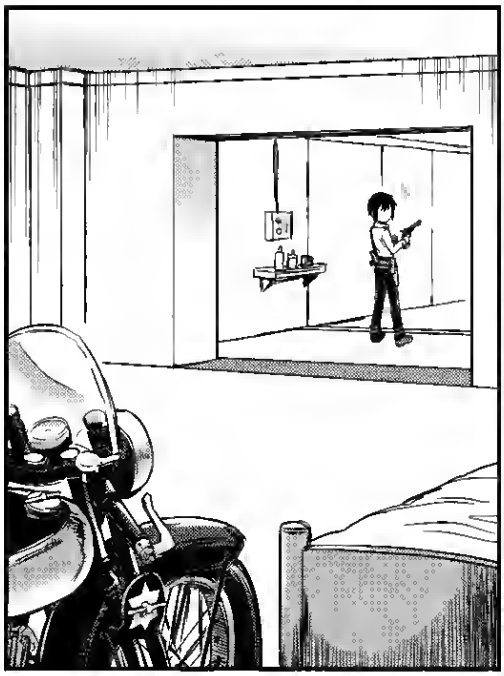
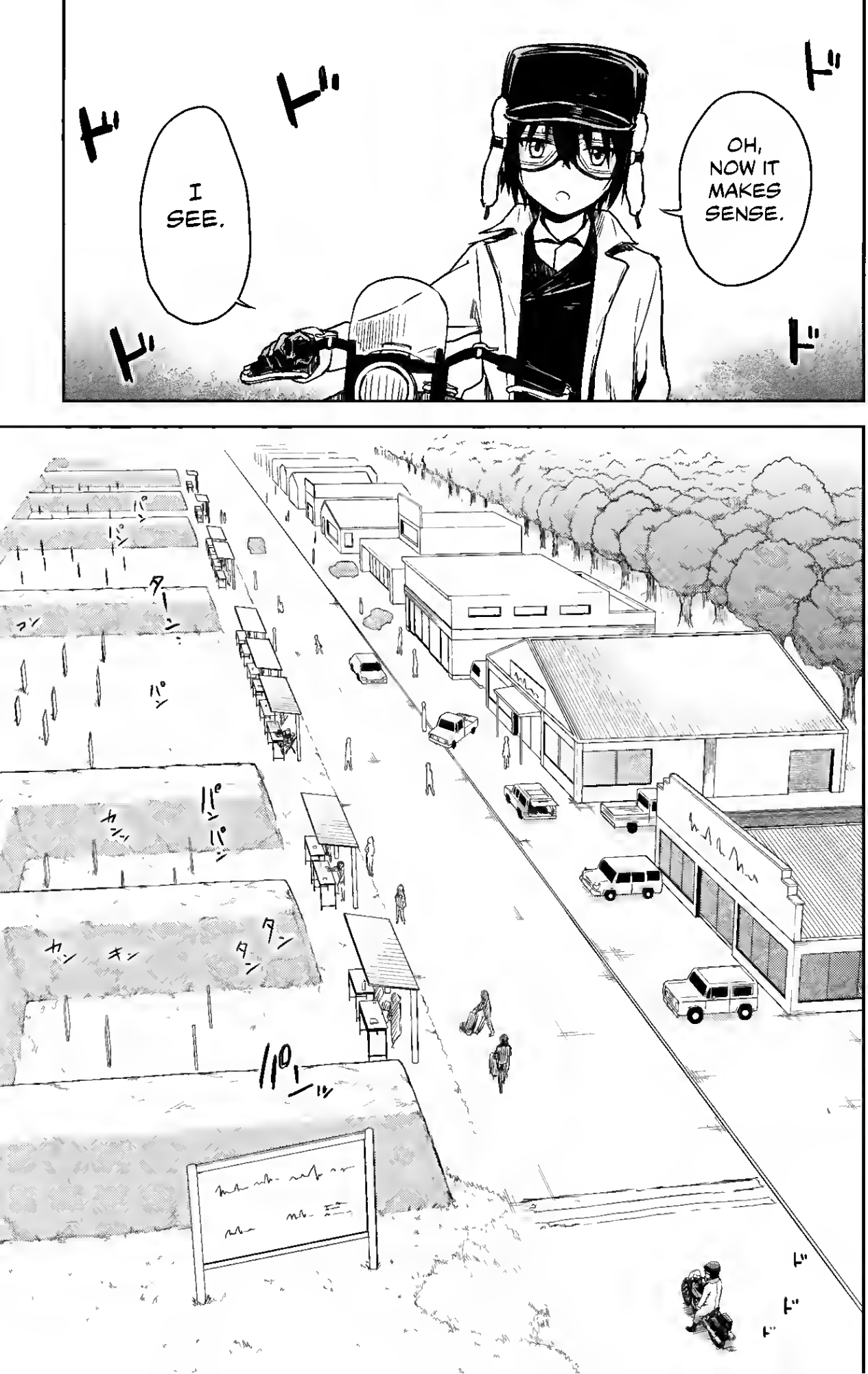


CUT THAT OUT!

ISN'T THIS ROOM GREAT?
HOW SO!?
キュポ
GOOD MORNING, HERMES.
THE GUNFIRE WAKES YOU UP FOR ME.
YOU'RE THE WORST!
I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP, SO TRY AND KEEP IT DOWN.
キュ…
くいくい
…
POP POP POP POP POP
BLAM BAMMM BLAMM BAMM

I HEARD AT THE HOTEL JUST NOW
THAT THIS COUNTRY HAS A BUNCH OF POPULAR PERSUADER MARKETS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.
I SEE. THAT'S PRETTY UNCOMMON.
MARKETS ARE USUALLY IN THE CITY.
AND EVEN IF THEY CAN'T BE DOWNTOWN, THEY'D AT LEAST BE NEARBY.
YEAH, THIS SEEMS RATHER INCONVENIENT, DOESN'T IT?
キィ...
ジャリ...


I SEE.
OH, NOW IT MAKES SENSE.

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パン
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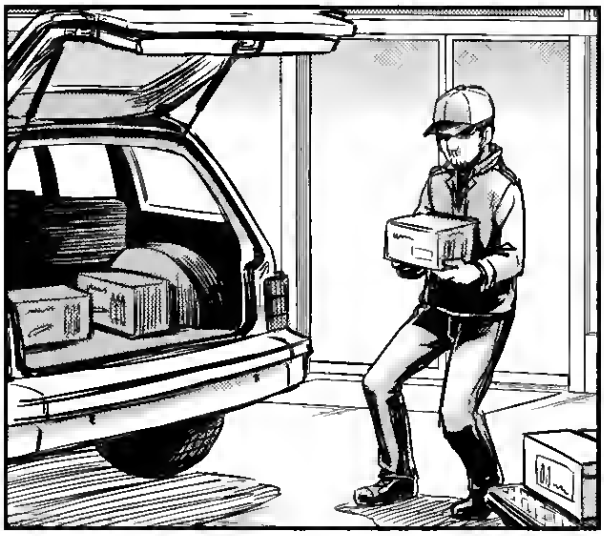

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IN THAT CASE, I THINK I'LL PASS.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND CARRY-ING THE EXTRA WEIGHT.
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パンパン ターン

OKAY, LET'S START BY RESTOCKING ON AMMO AND GUN-POWDER.
DON'T YOU WANT TO BUY MORE PERSUAD-ERS, KINO?
YOU COULD BUY AS MANY AS YOU WANT HERE.
パパァーン
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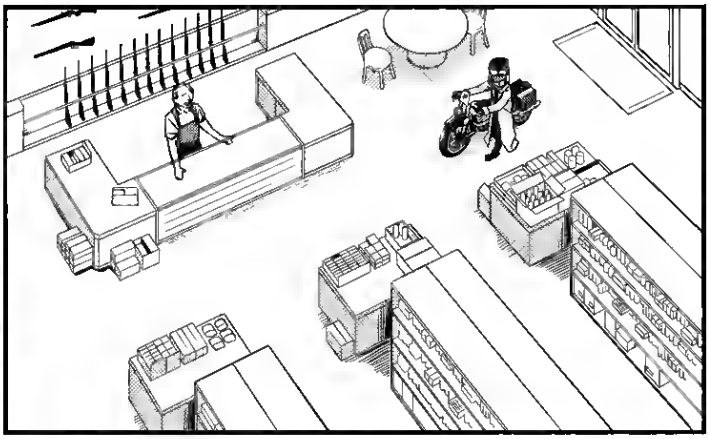
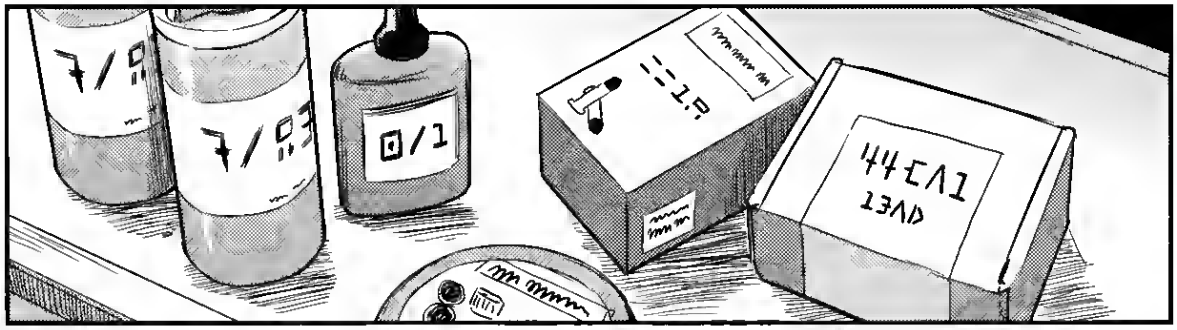
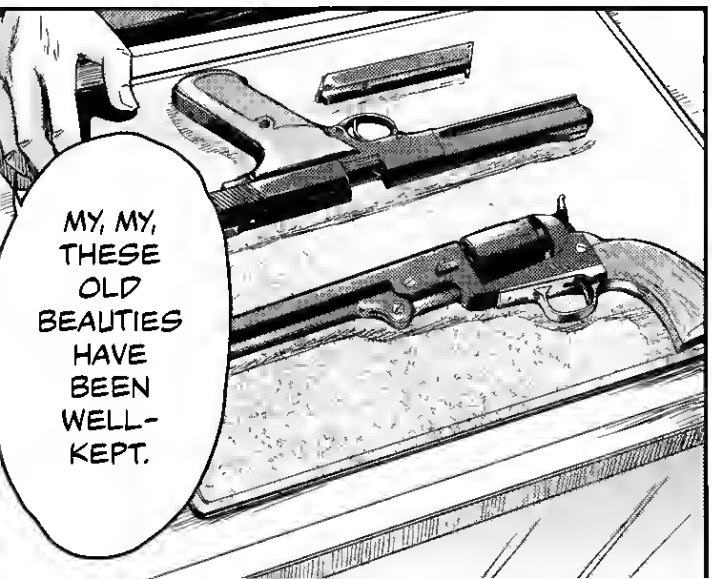
OHH, A TRAV-ELER?
WEL-COME TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO MY STORE!
WEL-COME!

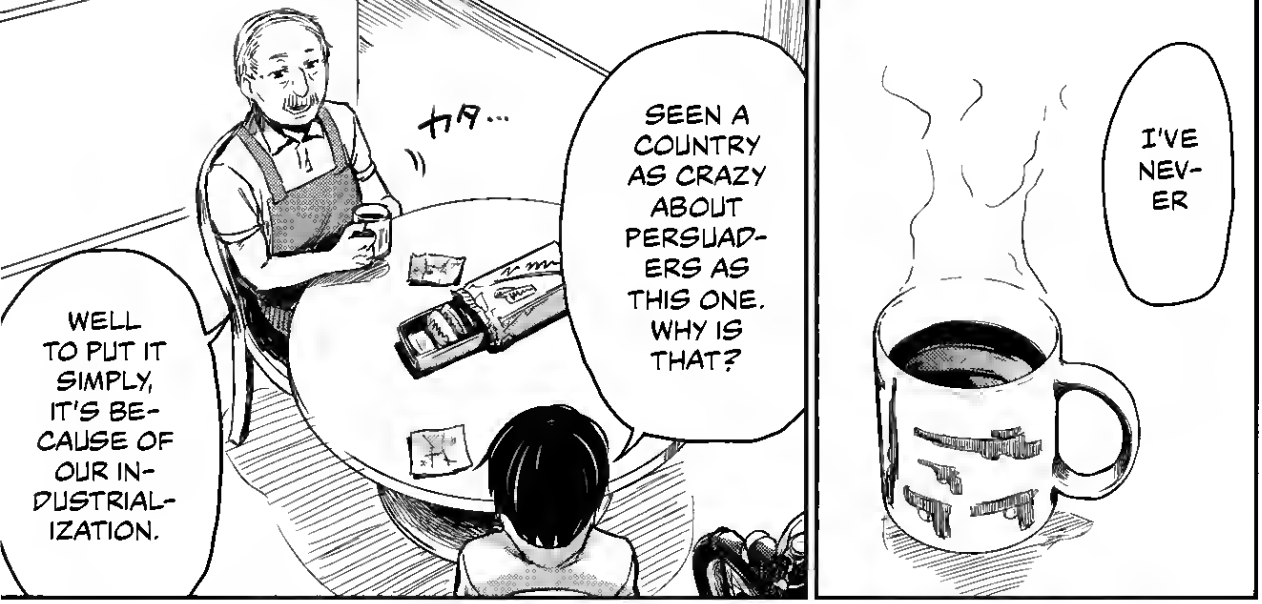


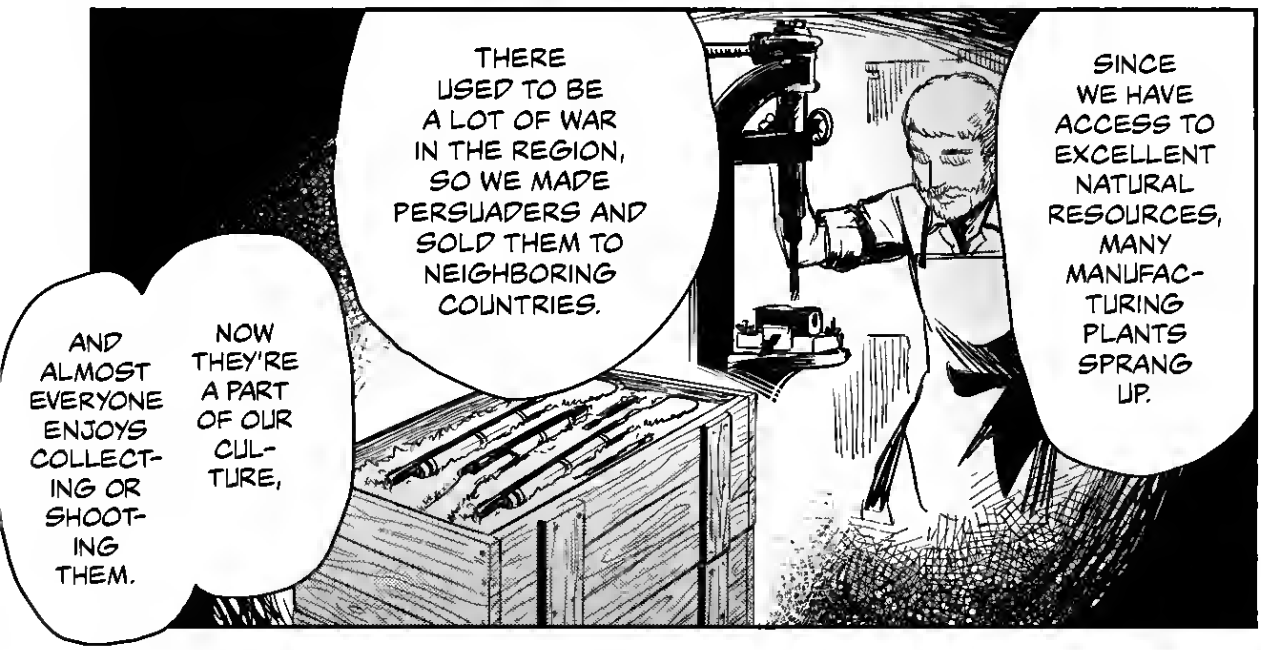


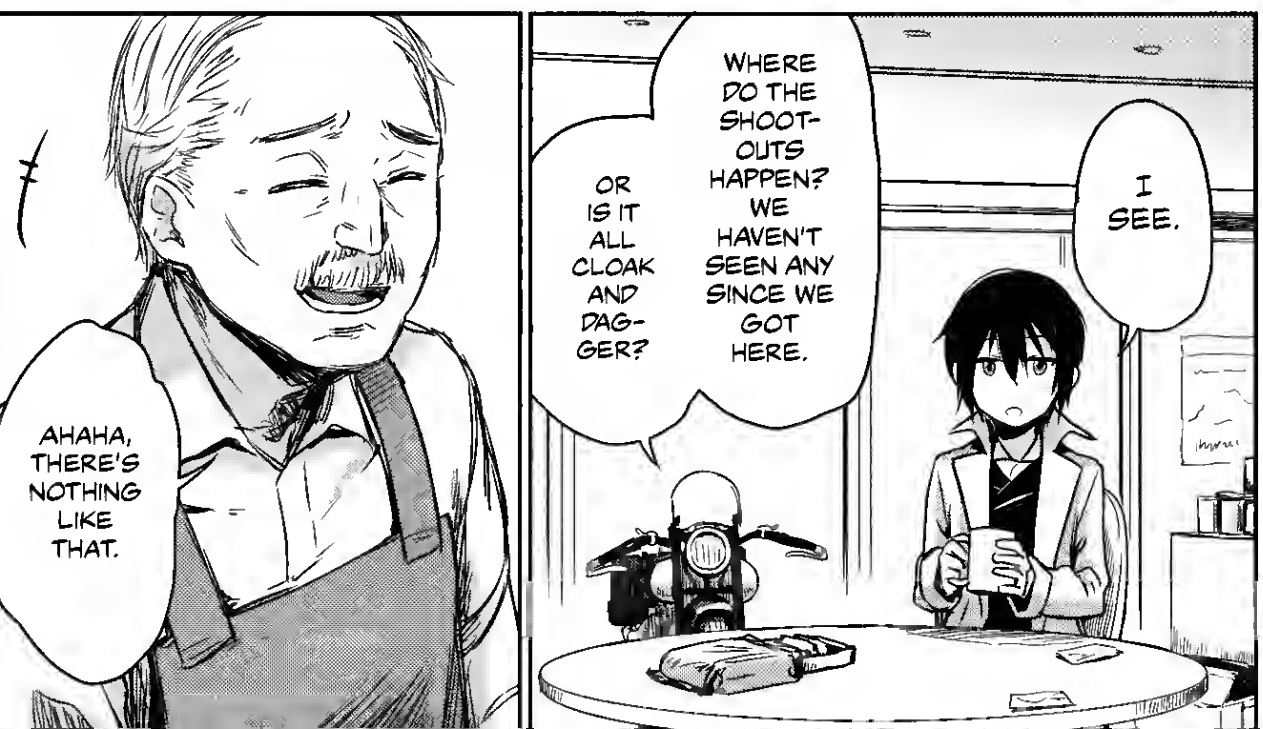

MY, MY, THESE OLD BEAUTIES HAVE BEEN WELL-KEPT.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD I HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR PERSUA-DERS?
SURE, GO AHEAD.

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M SO USED TO THEM THAT IT'S HARD TO LET THEM GO.
I SEE... THAT'S TOO BAD, BUT I UNDER-STAND.
I GET A LOT OF CUS-TOMERS THAT LOVE PIECES LIKE THESE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? CAN I INTEREST YOU IN SELLING THEM?
OR IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN TRADE THEM FOR ANOTHER PERSUA-DER OR TWO FROM MY SHOP.
ON THE OTHER HAND,
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE THEM SOME MAIN-TENANCE, YOU'RE FREE TO TINKER AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.
REALLY? I WOULD LOVE TO!
LET ME GO CHECK MY STOCK OF PARTS... NO, WAIT, SHOULD I TAKE A PICTURE FIRST...?


I'VE NEV-ER
SEEN A COUNTRY AS CRAZY ABOUT PERSUAD-ERS AS THIS ONE. WHY IS THAT?
WELL TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S BE-CAUSE OF OUR IN-DUSTRIAL-IZATION.

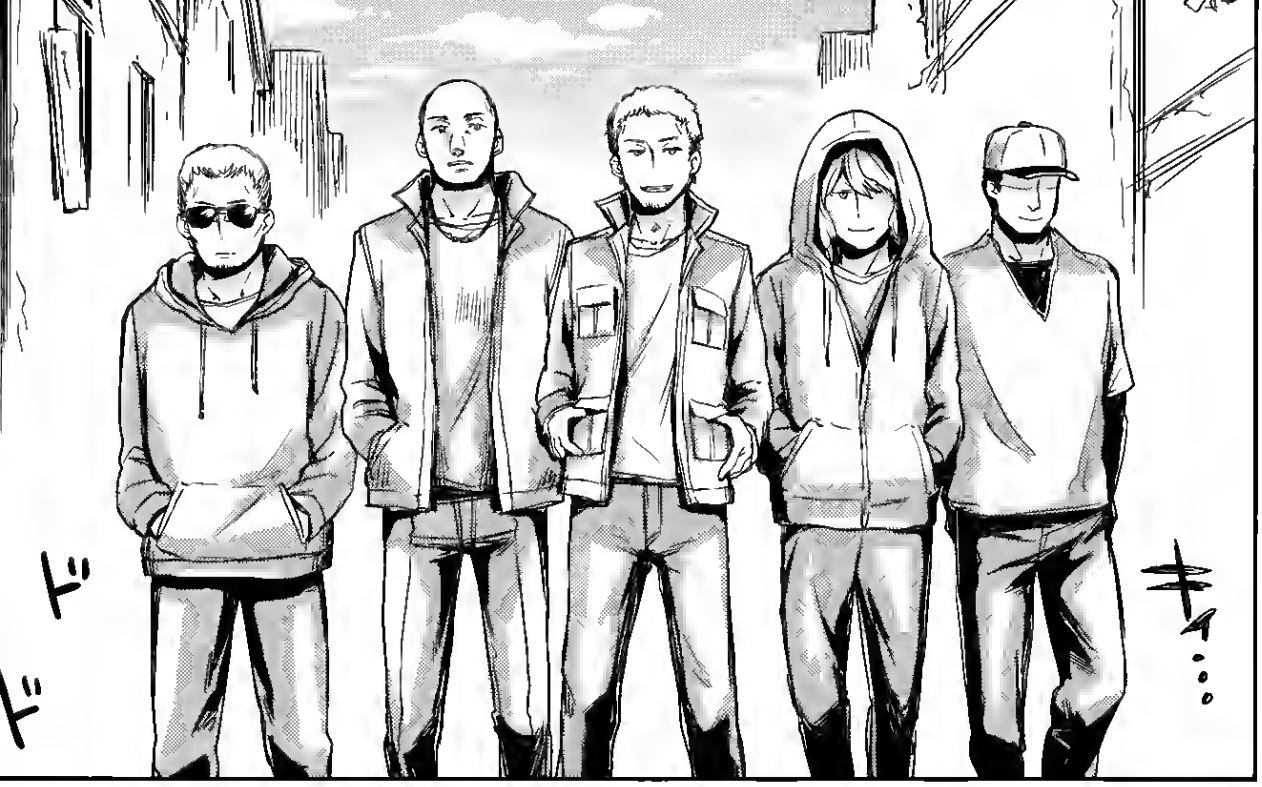

SINCE WE HAVE ACCESS TO EXCELLENT NATURAL RESOURCES, MANY MANUFAC-TURING PLANTS SPRANG UP.
THERE USED TO BE A LOT OF WAR IN THE REGION, SO WE MADE PERSUADERS AND SOLD THEM TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
NOW THEY'RE A PART OF OUR CUL-TURE,
AND ALMOST EVERYONE ENJOYS COLLECT-ING OR SHOOT-ING THEM.


I SEE.
WHERE DO THE SHOOT-OUTS HAPPEN? WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SINCE WE GOT HERE.
OR IS IT ALL CLOAK AND DAG-GER?
AHAHA, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

I SEE...
WELL, SURE.
JUST HOW TERRI-FYING THEY ARE.
YOU USE PER-SUADERS ON A REGULAR BASIS, SO I'M SURE YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
WITH THAT SORT OF UPBRINGING, THEY KNOW TO NEVER USE PER-SUADERS FOR CRIME.
THEY'RE FIRMLY SCOLDED IF THEY HANDLE A PERSUADER DANGER-OUSLY.
WHICH GOES HAND IN HAND WITH LIFE LESSONS ON ETHICS AND MORALITY.
WHEN THE CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY BEGIN TO GRASP THEIR SUR-ROUNDINGS, THEIR PARENTS TEACH THEM HOW TO SHOOT,
HOW-EVER...
I GUESS THAT'S PART OF THE REASON TOO.
ALSO, USING A PERSUADER TO COMMIT A CRIME CARRIES A HARSH PUN-ISHMENT.

LATELY, THERE'S BEEN SOME UNREST.
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANY YOUNG PUNKS.
I'D RATHER NOT WASTE MY BUL-LETS.
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU GO UNLOAD SOME ROUNDS?
SHOW EVERY-ONE THE TRUE POWER OF A TRAVEL-ER.
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE HERE IS BETTER THAN ME.
BE-SIDES,

"RUINS OF THE OLD CAPITAL"...
LET'S CHECK IT OUT, KINO!
WELL, WE'RE DONE SHOPPING, AND THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE WE PLANNED TO VISIT...
BUT WHAT IF THERE'S NOTHING NEW TO SEE?
WHAT? I'M SURE THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
OLD BUILDINGS HAVE A CERTAIN CHARM, YOU KNOW.
SOMETHING NEW BUILDINGS LACK.
AND THAT SOMETHING IS, HERMES?
IT'S SOMETHING.
HEYY! STOP RIGHT THERE!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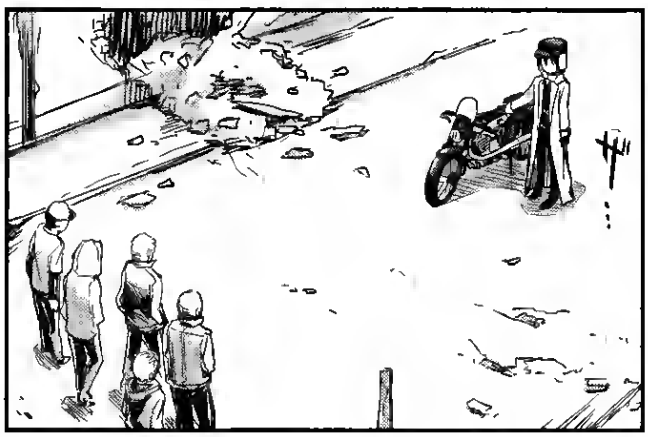

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CLICK

OH, BOY...
OOH, THESE MUST BE THE PUNKS THAT THE SHOPKEEPER WAS TALKING ABOUT!
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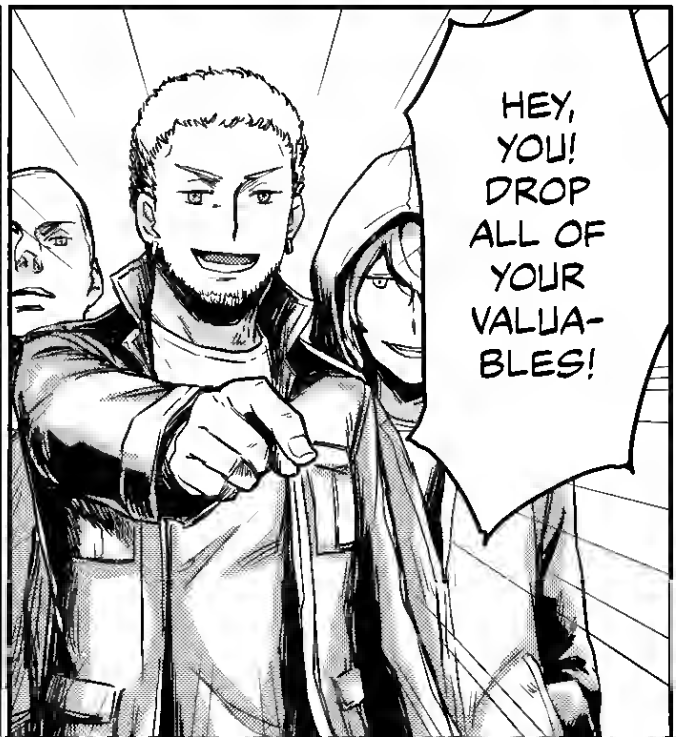

HEY, YOU! DROP ALL OF YOUR VALUA-BLES!

ばっ
YOU WANNA GO, KID? WELL HOW'S THIS?
！
ピクッ

IS THIS YOUR GUYS' IDEA OF A JOKE?
...?
SAY WHAT? YOU REALLY THINK WE'D STOP YOU JUST FOR A LAUGH?

...
I'M A NICE GUY, SO I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK WITH YOUR MOTORRAD AND PERSUADER.
GIVE US YOUR VALUABLES NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT UNLESS YOU WANT A BEAT-DOWN,
WE'RE MUG-GERS!

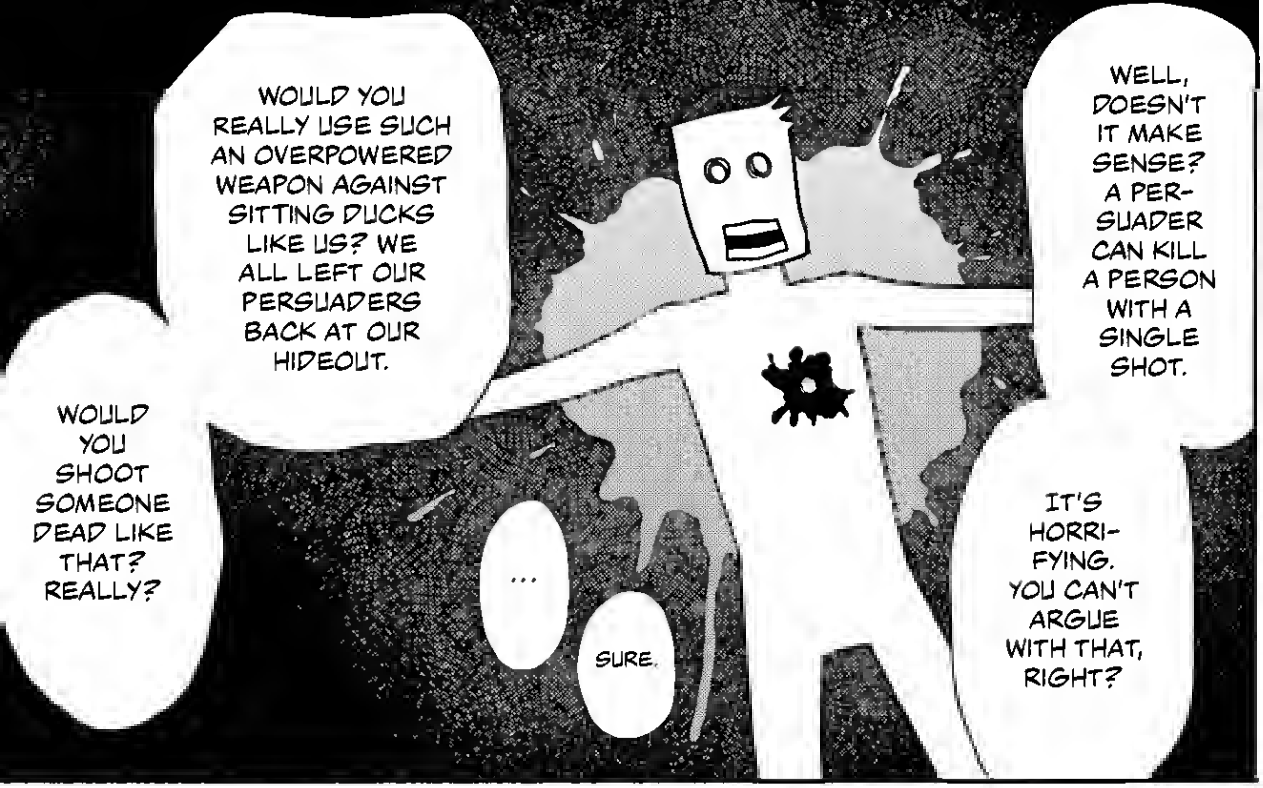
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA SHOOT US?
SO? WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? SHOOT US?

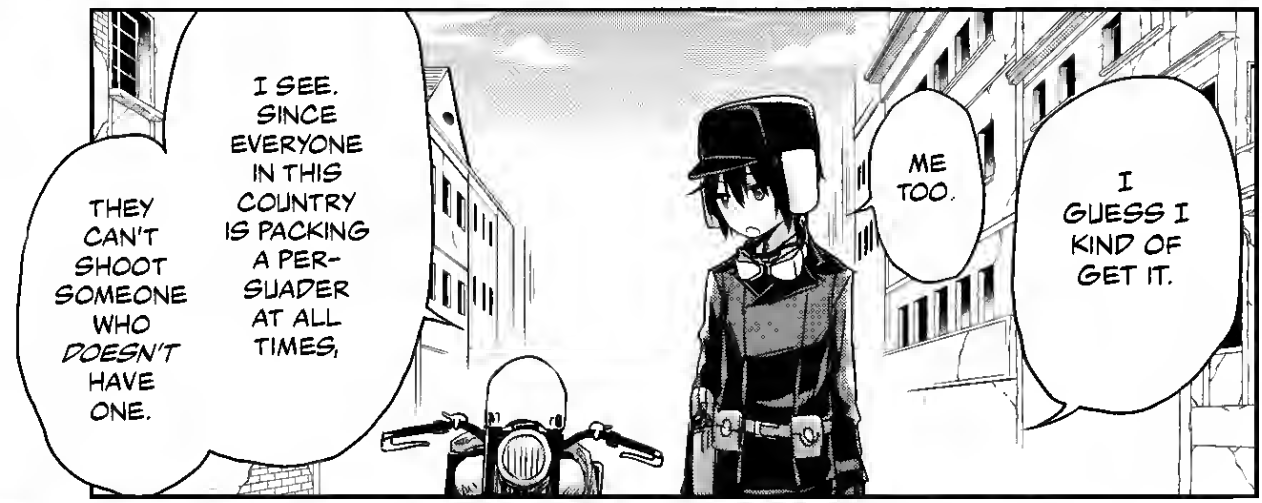
UHH, LOOK AGAIN.
KINO ACTUALLY HAS TWO PERSUAD-ERS, YOU KNOW.

HUH?
...

HOLD ON, GUYS.
KINO IS A TRAV-ELER.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT THIS COUN-TRY,
SO IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD FILL US IN.
MAYBE WE'LL EVEN GIVE YOU SOME-THING IN RETURN.
NO, WE WON'T.
IF YOU WANNA KNOW THAT BAD, I GUESS I HAVE TO TELL YOU!
WE'RE NOT GIVING YOU ANY-THING.

LET ME EX-PLAIN!
HERE, IN THIS COUNTRY,
SHOOT-ING SOME-ONE IN SELF-DEFENSE WHEN THEY'RE UN-ARMED
IS THE GREAT-EST TABOO OF ALL!
...
WHAT ?


WELL, DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE? A PERSUADER CAN KILL A PERSON WITH A SINGLE SHOT.
IT'S HORRIFYING. YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT, RIGHT?
...
SURE.
WOULD YOU REALLY USE SUCH AN OVERPOWERED WEAPON AGAINST SITTING DUCKS LIKE US? WE ALL LEFT OUR PERSUADERS BACK AT OUR HIDEOUT.
WOULD YOU SHOOT SOMEONE DEAD LIKE THAT? REALLY?


I GUESS I KIND OF GET IT.
ME TOO.
I SEE. SINCE EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY IS PACKING A PERSUADER AT ALL TIMES,
THEY CAN'T SHOOT SOMEONE WHO *DOESN'T* HAVE ONE.

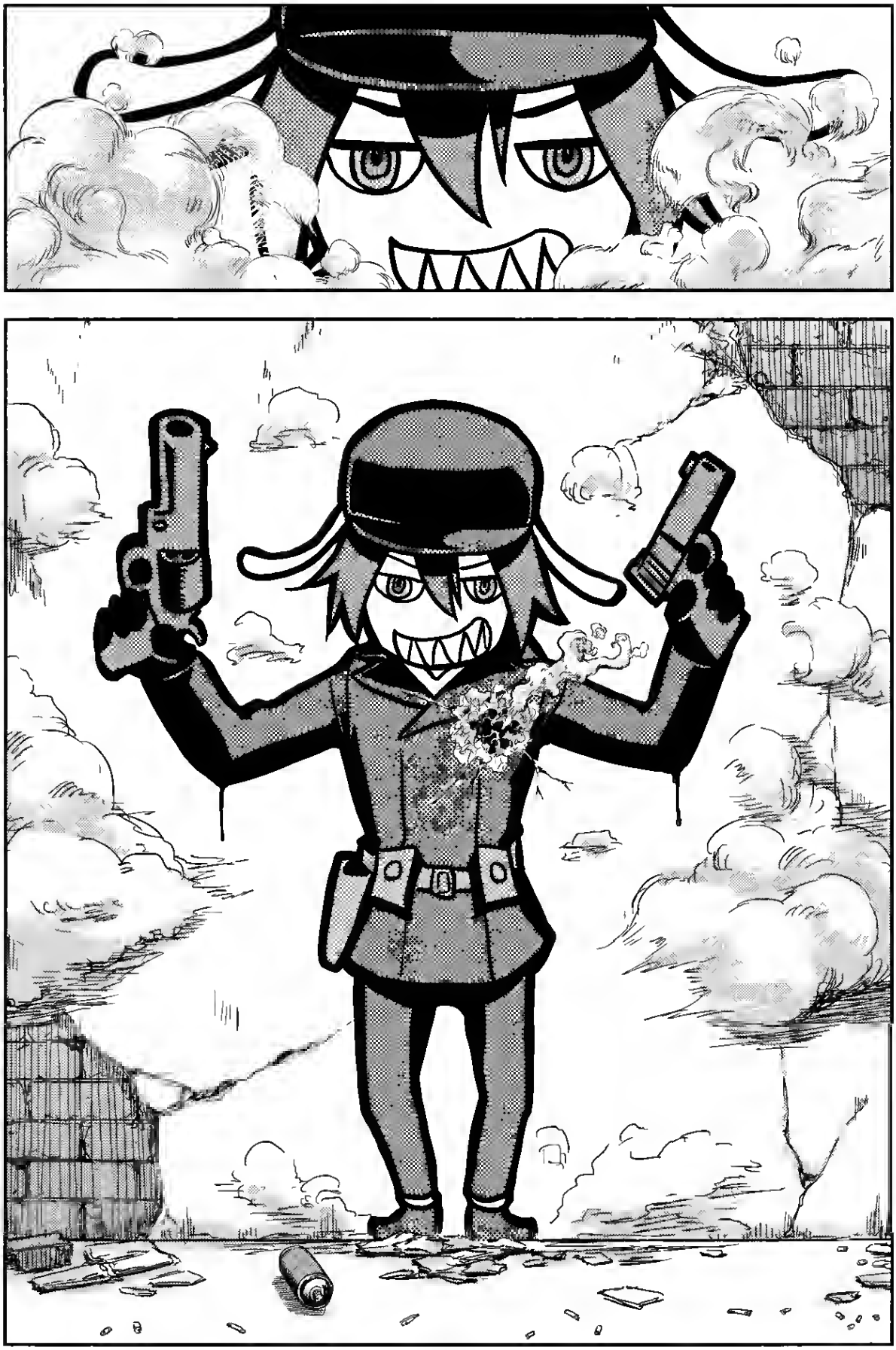
WHAT A BIZARRE PHENOMENON.
SEE? THERE'S NEW STUFF TO BE SEEN, EVEN IN THESE OLD RUINS.
YEAH. I'M GLAD WE GOT TO SEE IT FIRSTHAND.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHY, YOU ...!

WE'RE GONNA BEAT YOU TO A PULP!
THAT'S IT. TIME'S UP!
GEH!
ARGH!
!?

GAH!
OOPH!
EH?
ぴたっ
EH...
AHH!

ドドドドドドドド
くるり
FUUU-UUCK!
THAT GOD DAMN TRAV-ELER!

EAT LEEE-AAAD!
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'LL PAY!



Chapter Two「Land of Slugging」-Busters- / END

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